

NEWSLETTER



Baikoen Bonsai Kenkyukai

Michael Ryan Bell

History, Appreciation, Classification, Identification,
and Discernment of Bonsai Containers

Thursday, February 15, 2024
7:00pm, Bamboo Room

LA Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007

Please bring something for the raffle

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February Demonstrator – Michael Ryan Bell



Michael Ryan Bell (often referred to simply as “MRB” online) began doing Bonsai seriously in 2008, and purchased his first quality container in 2010. After a few months trying to find information on that container, and others collected in the interim, he realized there truly was a lack of information available in English on Bonsai containers. He set out to rectify that situation through, A Chop and Signature database, and a website for container artist profiles and biographies.

At present, there are more bonsai specific pottery artist marks on the japanesebonsaipots.net database than in any single publication, in any language, and it's still evolving. It is his stated mission to raise the standards of appreciation, awareness, and selection of quality bonsai containers in the community. Since beginning teaching about bonsai pottery, Ryan has lectured at the National Bonsai Exhibitions in America and the United Kingdom, the Golden State Bonsai convention as a co-headliner, and nearly 100 clubs and organizations, and serves on the board for the American Bonsai Society.

He is renowned for his deep knowledge of bonsai containers in the world and his willingness to share his knowledge with anyone who asks.

February's PowerPoint Presentations will be on the History, Appreciation, Classification, Identification, and Discernment of Bonsai Containers. They contain an even mix of beginner, intermediate, and advanced information on those topics to appeal across the spectrum for members of all levels. Approximately 90 minutes, with Q and A and appraisal hour to follow. [You may bring containers/pots for his appraisal at this meeting, please take advantage of this opportunity.](#) Web site japanesebonsaipots.com

This is a meeting not to be missed. You will be overwhelmed by his expertise.

Lindsay Shiba – Repotting

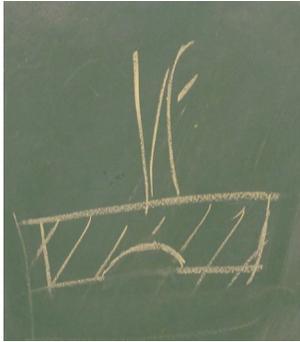
This was a fun meeting. We got to hear Lindsay explain what to do followed by a live demonstration as he went



around the room. On the left is Big Joe introducing and giving a summary of events of the club. Lindsay on the right is showing an apparatus

he built to hold a tree when he is repotting by himself. You can see the notches on either end of the board are different sizes, one is smaller (see where his

thumb is) and the other end has a deeper “V”. Above right is a picture showing how a tree trunk would fit in the notched area.



Lindsay took the tree out of the pot and started removing soil around the tree. The way he did it was to use a chop stick or similar object and take the soil out. He used a saw to cut off maybe 2 inches off the bottom, then used a chop stick to make a cavity under the tree (see picture at the left). This would allow space for new soil around the bottom and sides of the plant as well as more new soil directly underneath the tree. He placed the tree just a little

off center in the pot, pulled his tie down wires over the roots of the tree so that it could not move, then added new soil, and worked it into all the spaces in the pot with a stick or chop stick.

The following pictures show Lindsay and various members of the club helping new members. It was a lot of fun and a lot of interaction among everyone.



On the right Lindsay is applying some growth hormone powder to the bottom of John's Ume tree to stimulate root growth. It's not necessary but maybe helpful in the tree's



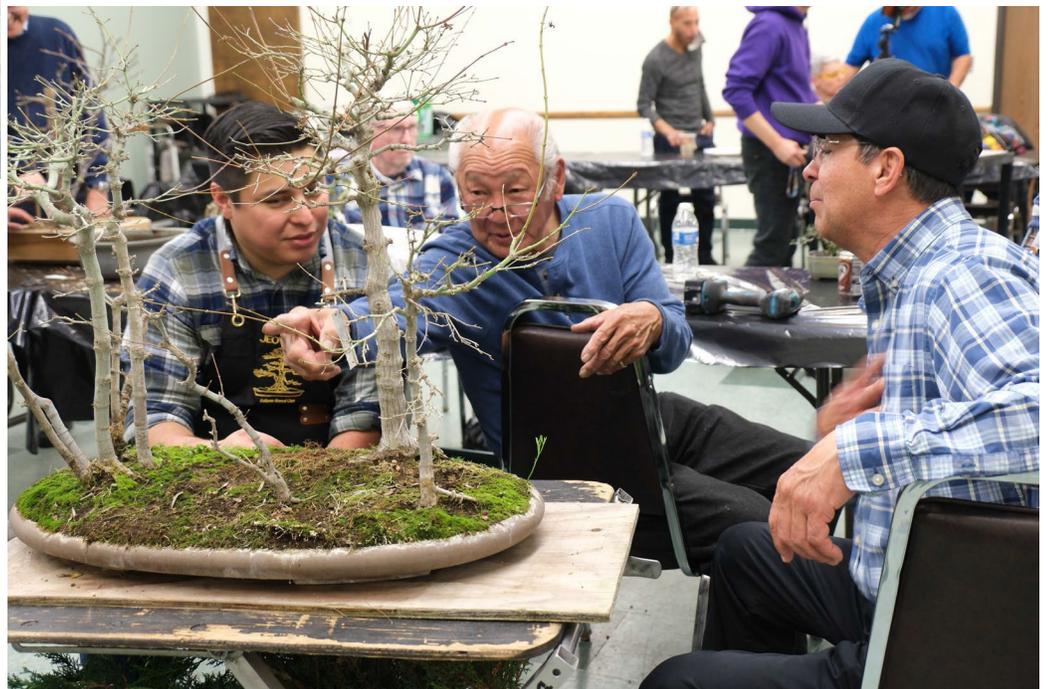
recovery.



Lindsay had collected some acorns from an elm (cork bark?) and was giving the acorns away to anyone who wanted them. On the right, Gus and Victor listened to Mel discussing the forest.

Lots of different kinds of trees at all different stages of growth and development and people with different levels of experience in bonsai

exchanging opinions and ideas. It was a fun evening! And it was Mel's 80th birthday.



Announcements

Time to renew yearly membership dues. If you joined in November or December of 2023, your membership is good through 2024. Last day to renew membership is March 31, 2024, when I delete members from the newsletter mail distribution list who have not paid for 2024. If you don't know if you need to renew membership, please ask. Please welcome new member Bret Marnell.

Thank you lunch for people that helped with the show, March 9, 2024, 12 noon. Villa Catrina Restaurant, 251 N. Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia, CA 91006, 626-294-1573. Please let me know, by text or email by **March 1, 2024**, if you plan to come. Shirley, phone 323-828-2162, email shirley_quan@sbcglobal.net. Please see flyer for menu.

Cookie / Snack sign-up for the February meeting.

Refreshments by Sue Cook and Radford. Thank you for signing up. Please remember to sign up for refreshments at the next meeting.

Marg Blasingame. It is with sadness that we announce the passing of long time member, Marge Blasingame.

Marge Blasingame was born in 1936, died on December 22, 2023. A longtime member of Baikoen, Descanso, Santa Anita, and Kofu Kai Bonsai Societies, and a member of the Shohin Society.

As a member of the California Bonsai Society she had co-chaired the California Bonsai Society Show with Ann Erb.

She served three terms on the GSBF Committee at the Huntington, and was in charge of the Bonsai-A-Thon for a number of years.

She helped Andrew Mitchell build the fence around the upper bonsai court at the Huntington.

Marge started bonsai in 1989, taking classes with Melba Tucker. She also studied with Ted Matson and Jim Barrett. She learned how to make bonsai pots studying ceramics with Kathy Boehme.

No memorial service.

Frank Goya. It is with profound sadness that we report the passing of an American Bonsai Legend, Frank Goya. Frank was a pillar of the California and US bonsai community. He passed on Friday January 5th at the age of 100. Frank was a lifetime Di Ichi Bonsai Kai member and supporter of our club. Our deepest condolences go out to the Goya family.

February 17 & 18, 2024, The Mammoth Auction and Sale, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610, Saturday noon to 4pm, Sunday 9am to 3pm. Live auction of approximately 115 bonsai trees, display stands, pots, and more. Sale of bargain priced bonsai pots, trees, stands, and more. All proceeds support the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. For more information, Phone: (+1) 7077629154 or <https://bonsailakemerritt.com>

February 24 & 25, 2024, Bonsai-A-Thon, The Huntington. Young Choe, Bonsai-A-Thon Visiting Artist, sponsored by Joshua Roth, will give a demonstration, in the Auditorium in the lower level of Banta Hall on February 24, and workshop on February 25. There will be displays, demonstrations, large sales area of plants, bonsai supplies and pots, auctions, and raffles! This is the biggest sale of the year in Southern California. Bonsai-A-Thon is free with Huntington admission. Please see the flyer.

Apr 13 – 14, 2024, American Bonsai Association, Sacramento's Annual Show, 10am- 4:00 pm,

Sacramento, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. Headliner, TYLER SHERROD, Professional Bonsai Artist/Teacher from Georgia, will conduct a live demonstration each day at 1:30PM • A large EXHIBIT of beautiful bonsai developed by our members • Northern California VENDORS selling all things bonsai. For more information, www.abasbonsai.org or phone: (+1) 916-799-9575

October 26-27, 2024, An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai, Pacific Bonsai Expo, [Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts](http://www.pacificbonsaiexpo.org/) in Oakland, California. If you are planning to submit one or more of your trees for consideration, the submission period will run from February 1st through April 30th. The members of the jury will determine which trees will be accepted for display at the exhibit. For more information, please visit <https://pacificbonsaiexpo.org/>.

Baikoen meetings will continue to be recorded live and zoomed by Tom. Here is the link to join the meeting. You need to install Zoom software for this link (copy and paste) to work.

<https://worldvision.zoom.us/j/6843230936>

Zoom meeting

Tom's videos: If you have missed any of the weekly videos that Tom has produced, here is the link to view all of them. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=baikoen+bonsai+club

Baikoen Demo Schedule – 2024

February 15, 2024	Michael Ryan Bell, CBS artist
March 21, 2024	Tom Vuong – Grafting
April 18, 2024	Bill Ward
May 16, 2024	Kaya Mooney, CBS Artist
June 20, 2024	Mitch Matsey
July 18, 2024	CBS Artist
August, 2024	No Meeting
September 19, 2024	Robert Hoogeveen
October 17, 2024	Debra Mauzy-Melitz – Kusamomo
November 21, 2024	Elle Nieto-Brodnick, CBS Artist
December, 2024	No Meeting, Happy Holidays